(d) The Manpower provision for above projects will be done as per approved Project Report. However employment to eligible land oustees as per R&R policy of Coal India Ltd. 2008, will be provided. The manpower of the mines which are on the verge of closure in Pench and Kanhan Areas will also be utilised gainfully in these new mines for the purpose of rationalization of manpower.

Centre-State coordination for mining

†1067. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state whether a separate forum should be formed for better coordination between Centre and State Governments for resolving the problems pertaining to coal and other minerals so that the local problems could be solved as soon as possible otherwise they remain pending for years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Periodical meetings of State Minister of Mining and close liaison by CIL and its subsidiaries with local State Governments are mechanism used for coordination between Centre State Governments. For resolving local problems on expeditious basis various forums like zonal council at coal company level and local forums to deal with various land and rehabilitation and resettlement issues at Panchayat and District level are functioning. As such another a separate forum for the purpose may not be necessary at present.

Prevention of serious fraud

1068. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether giving more teeth to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office and strengthening corporate governance would be the main priority areas for Government;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far;

(c) the existing number of cases pending with his Ministry;

(d) the punishment given so far in such fraud cases during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken to prevent serious frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) and (b) With a view to strengthen the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Vepa Kamesam, former Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was constituted. The committee has submitted its report in April, 2009 making various recommendations to strengthen the SFIO. The report is under examination. As regards strengthening of corporate governance, the Government has introduced Companies Bill 2009 in the Lok Sabha on 03.08.2009 which includes various measures in this direction.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) At present, 22 cases are under investigation with SFIO.

(d) Based on the investigation reports submitted after carrying out the investigation, the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has filed, till date, 767 cases in courts.

(e) An elaborate regulatory framework is in place to prevent, to the extent possible, the occurrence of serious frauds. This framework provides for statutory disclosures about the affairs of companies intended to inform the stakeholders the truth about the State of affairs of companies. To facilitate making of such disclosures by companies, and for stakeholders and regulatory agencies, to easily access and view them, Government has set up an electronic registry with round the clock access through internet. The Government has powers of inspection of the books of accounts of companies and also, to investigate into their State of affairs, if need be, under the Companies Act, 1956. The Act also provides for appointment of independent, statutory auditors to audit the accounts and report to the shareholders. Such audited accounts are also displayed on the electronic registry for general viewing. While the reporting requirements are regulated under the Companies Act, 1956, the conduct of auditors is regulated under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949. In addition, for listed companies, compliance with these statutory requirements is required to be certified by a company secretary in practice, who in turn is regulated under the Company Secretaries Act, 1980. Government has amended the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 in 2006 to provide for a more effective disciplinary mechanism to deal with cases of misconduct by Chartered Accountants and Company Secretaries respectively. In 2006, the Government has notified Accounting Standards to enable accounts of companies to be drawn up and disclosed on the basis of fair, transparent and internationally accepted principles. The Government has also introduced Companies Bill, 2009 in Lok Sabha on 3rd August, 2009 which seeks to make more stringent provisions in case of frauds by companies, their directors and auditors etc.

Findings of ICAI in Satyam scam case

1069. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has found the auditors—Price-Waterhouse Coopers—of Satyam Computers guilty in the Rs. 7,800 crores fraud;

(b) the reasons for ICAI taking such a long time in arriving at this decision;

(c) whether it is also a fact that now only the ICAI would issue notices to those found guilty; and